IN THE CLAIMS

1. (*Currently Amended*) A document management system comprising:

a host computer;

an image information processing apparatus;

a document management server that manages electronic document data; and

a network that connects said host computer, said image information processing apparatus, and said document management server to each other; and,

wherein said image information processing apparatus comprises:

an image information reading device that reads image information;

a searching device that searches the electronic document data within said document management server for an original electronic document data file corresponding to the read image information;

a setting device that sets, based on a user operation, whether or not the searched original electronic document data file is to be attached to an electronic mail notification and whether or not the electronic mail notification is automatically executed; and

an operating section that displays a result of a search by said searching device, including a first button for transmitting the result of the search as an electronic mail notification with the searched original electronic document data file and a second button for transmitting the result of the search as an electronic mail notification without the searched original electronic document data file;

a notifying device that transmits [[a]] the result of the search by said searching device as an electronic mail to an electronic mail address when said setting device sets that the electronic mail notification is automatically executed or when one of the first or second button displayed in said operating section is operated by a user, the result of search including information indicative of a location where the searched original electronic document data is stored,

wherein the searched original electronic document data file is attached to the electronic mail to be transmitted file by said notifying device when said setting device sets that the searched original electronic document data file is to be attached or when the first button is operated by the user, and

wherein no file corresponding to the searched original electronic document data file is attached to the electronic mail to be transmitted by said notifying device when said setting device sets that the searched original electronic document data file is not to be attached or when the second button is operated by the user.

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2. (*Original*) A document management system according to claim 1, wherein said searching device comprises a character recognition device.

3. (*Original*) A document management system according to claim 1, wherein said searching device comprises a watermarked information sensing device.

4. (*Canceled*)

5. (*Currently Amended*) A document management system according to claim 1, wherein ~~said image information processing apparatus comprises an operating section, and~~ said notifying device displays the result of search in said operating section.

6-7. (*Canceled*)

8. (*Previously Presented*) A document management system according to claim 1, wherein in a case where a plurality of original electronic document files corresponding to the read image information are searched out, the result of search includes correspondence information indicative of priorities assigned to the plurality of original electronic document files according to degrees of correspondence.

9. (*Previously Presented*) A document management system according to claim 1, wherein said image information processing apparatus further comprises:

a printing device;

a controller operable when the original electronic document data file corresponding to the read image information is present within said document management server, to cause said printing device to print the original electronic document data file.

10. (*Previously Presented*) A document management system according to claim 1, wherein said image information processing apparatus further comprises:

a storage device; and

a controller operable when the original electronic document data file corresponding to the electronic document data within the read image information is present within said document

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management server, to provide control to store data obtained by rendering the original electronic document data in said storage device.

11. (*Currently Amended*) A document management method of operating an image information processing apparatus having an operating section connected via a network to a document management server which manages electronic document data, the method comprising:

an image information reading step of reading image information;

a searching step of searching the electronic document data within the document management server for an original electronic document data file corresponding to the read image information;

a setting step of setting, based on a user operation, whether or not the searched original electronic document data file is to be attached to an electronic mail notification and whether or not the electronic mail notification is automatically executed; and

a displaying step of displaying in the operation section a result of a search from said searching step, including a first button for transmitting the result of the search as an electronic mail notification with the searched original electronic document data file and a second button for transmitting the result of the search as an electronic mail notification without the searched original electronic document data file;

a notifying step of transmitting [[a]] the result of the search in said searching step as an electronic mail to an electronic mail address when said setting step sets that the electronic mail notification is automatically executed or when one of the first or second button displayed in said operating section is operated by a user, the result of search including information indicative of a location where the searched original electronic document data is stored,

wherein the searched original electronic document data file is attached to the electronic mail to be transmitted in said notifying step when said setting step sets that the searched original electronic document data file is to be attached or when the first button is operated by the user, and

wherein no file corresponding to the searched original electronic document data file is attached to the electronic mail to be transmitted in said notifying step when said setting step sets that the searched original electronic document data file is not to be attached or when the second button is operated by the user.

wherein the searched original electronic document data file is attached to the electronic mail to be transmitted file by said notifying device when said setting device sets that the searched original electronic document data file is to be attached or when the first button is operated by the user, and

wherein no file corresponding to the searched original electronic document data file is attached to the electronic mail to be transmitted by said notifying device when said setting device sets that the searched original electronic document data file is not to be attached or when the second button is operated by the user.

12. (*Currently Amended*) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program for causing a computer to execute a document management method of operating an image information processing apparatus having an operating section connected via a network to a document management server which manages electronic document data, the method comprising:

an image information reading step of reading image information;

a searching step of searching the electronic document data within the document management server for an original electronic document data file corresponding to the read image information;

a setting step of setting, based on a user operation, whether or not the searched original electronic document data file is to be attached to an electronic mail notification and whether or not the electronic mail notification is automatically executed; and

a displaying step of displaying in the operating section a result of a search from said searching step, including a first button for transmitting the result of the search as an electronic mail notification with the searched original electronic document data file and a second button for transmitting the result of the search as an electronic mail notification without the searched original electronic document data file;

a notifying step of transmitting [[a]] the result of the search in said searching step as an electronic mail to an electronic mail address when said setting step sets that the electronic mail notification is automatically executed or when one of the first or second button displayed in said operating section is operated by a user, the result of search including information indicative of a location where the searched original electronic document data is stored,

wherein the searched original electronic document data file is attached to the electronic mail to be transmitted in said notifying step when said setting step sets that the searched

original electronic document data file is to be attached or when the first button is operated by the user, and

wherein no file corresponding to the searched original electronic document data file is attached to the electronic mail to be transmitted in said notifying step when said setting step sets that the searched original electronic document data file is not to be attached or when the second button is operated by the user.

13. (*Previously Presented*) An document management system according to claim 1, wherein the user operation is executed via a web browser of an external computer that is connected via the network to the image information processing apparatus.

14. (*Currently Amended*) An image information processing apparatus connected via a network to a document management server that manages electronic document data, the image information processing apparatus comprises:

a searching unit that searches the electronic document data within said document management server for an original electronic document data file corresponding to image information read by an reading unit;

a setting unit that sets, based on a user operation, whether or not the searched original electronic document data file is to be attached to an electronic mail notification and whether or not the electronic mail notification is automatically executed;

an operating unit that displays a result of a search by said searching unit, including a first button for transmitting the result of the search as an electronic mail notification with the searched original electronic document data file and a second button for transmitting the result of the search as an electronic mail notification without the searched original electronic document data file;

a transmitting unit that transmits [[a]] the result of the search by said searching unit as an electronic mail to an electronic mail address when said setting unit sets that the electronic mail notification is automatically executed or when one of the first or second button displayed in said operating unit is operated by a user, the result of search including information indicative of a location where the searched original electronic document data is stored,

wherein the searched original electronic document data file is attached to the electronic mail to be transmitted by said transmitting unit when said setting unit sets that the searched

original electronic document data file is to be attached or when the first button is operated by the user, and

   wherein no file corresponding to the searched original electronic document data file is attached to the electronic mail to be transmitted by said transmitting unit when said setting unit sets that the searched original electronic document data file is not to be attached or when the second button is operated by the user.